

Minutes of Southeast Healthcare Task Force held on March 14, 2008

Attending: Norman Johnson (San Juan County), Tauna Bruno (SOS Staffing), Becky Striblen (Allen Memorial), Vicki Gigliotti (Allen Memorial), William Harrison (Utah Navajo Health Systems), Kate Alleman (United Way, former nurse), Guy Denton (CEU-San Juan), Al Shakespeare (Emery County Care and Rehab), Doris Christensen (CEU Nursing), Gerald Gappmayer (DWS), Kelly Thornton (DWS), Katie Hanway (DWS), Bob Gilbert (DWS), Lynn Purdin (DWS), Paul Jackson (Intermountain Health Care)

Bob welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

The State has organized task forces in four of the leading economic sectors, one of which is healthcare, to identify workforce challenges within the sector, and then work to address those challenges. Paul Jackson from IHC, is the chair of the statewide Healthcare task force. In the Southeast Region, healthcare was identified as one of the sectors to address, hence the need for this task force. The task force will identify challenges for southeast, as well as work with the statewide Healthcare Taskforce as it addresses healthcare issues.

Bob asked each of the healthcare organizations there to briefly describe their situation and where the challenges are:

Vicki, Allen Memorial Hospital in Moab, said they are able to find enough nurses. Said that CNAs aren't that plentiful, and medical lab technicians are hard to find. Dr. Denton said that a resource for them might be Peggy Denton, at 678-2201, ext 820.

Al, Emery County Care Center, said they need more CNAs. Wage starts at \$8, \$10 if they have experience. May need to raise the wage.

William, UNHS, said they are able to fill positions at their four clinics. Can be hard to get staff at Montezuma Creek.

Vicki said that CNAs is an ongoing problem/challenge in Moab; and can carry over into nursing. The Medical Tech position requires a four year degree, and is always hard to recruit. With the new Moab hospital coming, they will need two more med techs and additional RNs. Dr. Denton thought there may be a way to provide that program locally with distance learning.

Becky said an issue with the nursing program in Moab is that nursing students have to travel to Blanding to go to school, and essentially have to quit their work at the hospital while in school. Wondered if there was a way to have some the classes put on video conferencing in Moab to avoid some of the travel. Dr. Denton thought it was doable.

Doris said there are 30-32 LPNs and 28-30 RNs that graduate each year from the CEU nursing programs in Price and Blanding. Nearly all graduates are able to get jobs, and the programs have a good reputation. Can be difficult to get enough clinicals in the

smaller hospitals. An advantage of small hospitals, however, is that the students get experience in all of the different specialties. Use the Salt Lake hospitals as able. When at Primary Hospital this year, employment offers were made to all the CEU participants. Doris said that about half of the students are local, and half outside the area. Dr. Denton said that the CEU-Blanding program caters to Native Americans as much as possible, and graduates a number of them.

The issue of getting more CNAs was discussed. Becky said the Moab hospital does internships with the high school to get interested students. Some high schools also have an active HOSA club.

Paul Jackson then described the state Healthcare Task Force, and its activities. He said the issues the task force had identified were: promoting healthcare so that more students consider healthcare as a career, educating more instructors, standardizing prerequisites for LPN and RN programs in Utah, and increasing cultural diversity in the healthcare workforce.

Talked about having a Chair of the Healthcare Task Force. Al volunteered to serve. Also, the state Healthcare Task Force will be meeting in Blanding on June 6. Dr. Denton offered the CEU Health Sciences building for the meeting.

Thanked those present for attending. Next meeting was set for either June 6 (in Blanding) or June 20<sup>th</sup> in Moab. Meeting adjourned.